

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
OXFORD DIVISION

MICHAEL THOMPSON

PLAINTIFF

VS.

NO. 3:14cv274NBB-SAA

CALVIN HAMP, in his individual
capacity and in his official
capacity as sheriff of Tunica
County, MS, JAMES JONES, in his
individual capacity and in his
official capacity as a captain in
Tunica County sheriff's office, and
UNKNOWN DEFENDANTS "A", "B" AND "C"

DEFENDANTS

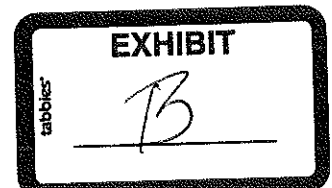
DEPOSITION OF SHERIFF CALVIN K. HAMP, SR.

TAKEN AT THE INSTANCE OF THE PLAINTIFF
IN THE OFFICES OF TUNICA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
5126 OLD MHOON LANDING ROAD, TUNICA, MISSISSIPPI
ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016, BEGINNING AT 2:16 P.M.

APPEARANCES NOTED HEREIN

Reported by: REGINA D. RUSSELL, RPR, CCR 1110

ADVANCED COURT REPORTING
P.O. BOX 761
TUPELO, MS 38802-0761
(662) 690-1500



1 APPEARANCES:

2 For the Plaintiff: E. CARLOS TANNER, III,
3 ESQUIRE
4 Tanner & Associates, LLC
5 Post Office Box 3709
6 Jackson, MS 39207
7 (601) 460-1745

8 For the Defendants: MICHAEL J. WOLF, ESQUIRE
9 Page Kruger & Holland
10 Post Office Box 1163
11 Jackson, MS 39215-1163
12 (601) 420-0333

13 Also Present: JAMES JONES
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 CALVIN K. HAMP, SR., after being
2 duly sworn, testified as follows:

3 EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. TANNER:

5 Q. Sheriff Hamp, we're here today in Michael
6 Thompson versus Calvin Hamp, James Jones and
7 Defendants, Unknown Defendants "A", "B" and "C".
8 That's Civil Action Number 3:14cv274-NBB-SAA, in the
9 United States District Court for the Northern
10 District of Mississippi, Oxford Division. And we're
11 here today beginning the deposition of Defendant
12 Calvin Hamp, the sheriff of Tunica County. This
13 deposition is being taken down by a certified court
14 reporter, Ms. Regina D. Russell. And Mr. Hamp is
15 present with his attorney, the Honorable Michael
16 Wolf, Michael J. Wolf.

17 Now, Sheriff Hamp, as you know, the court
18 reporter is taking down everything that's being
19 asked, asked by me and answered by you. Your
20 attorney is present and he has the right to object to
21 certain questions. He knows what he can and cannot
22 object to. But unless you're instructed by your
23 attorney not to answer, even if he objects, you'll
24 still have to give an answer in most circumstances.
25 All we're looking for is for you to give truthful

1 Q. All right. So according to the fleet
2 safety management policy, are you personally the one
3 who checks those licenses?

4 A. No, I do not.

5 Q. All right. Who checks the licenses?

6 A. We have a lieutenant in place over our
7 communications division who check all the licenses,
8 either her or the tac officer.

9 Q. And who is that person, the first person
10 you mentioned who checks licenses, who is she?

11 A. Lieutenant Pearlie Guice. She's over the
12 dispatcher center here in Tunica County Sheriff's
13 Office. She supervises 10, 11 employees.

14 Q. All right. Who is the other person that
15 runs the licenses?

16 A. Evelyn Paige. She's the assistant tac
17 officer.

18 THE COURT REPORTER: The first name?

19 THE WITNESS: Evelyn. E-V-E-L-Y-N,
20 P-A-I-G-E. She's -- if the lieutenant doesn't run
21 them then she'll assign that job to Evelyn Paige, who
22 is the tac officer.

23 Q. (Mr. Tanner) Okay. Pursuant to your fleet
24 safety management policy, how often are employees'
25 driver's licenses and insurance checked?

1 A. Twice a year here.

2 Q. All right. When you say twice a year, is
3 it always the same two months?

4 A. Every six months.

5 Q. All right. So which months are those?

6 A. I don't know exactly, but we do have an SOP
7 in place whereas the thing about the lieutenant who
8 checks them. It's in place. I mean, we have a
9 uniform check. Now, what dates, I can't give you
10 what dates because I have a total of over 100 plus
11 employees here and I have division leaders, like a
12 chief deputy who run the day-to-day operations. I
13 have a lieutenant to run communications, a warden to
14 run the jail, a commander in charge of internal
15 affairs. I have the lieutenant again over
16 communication, a major over EOC as well as a major
17 over patrol and one over investigations. So we have
18 a large operation. So my hands are not involved in
19 the day-to-day operation of the Tunica County
20 Sheriff's Office.

21 Q. Okay. All right. So earlier you said SOP.
22 For the record, SOP is standard operating procedure?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Okay. So now, prior -- you are aware of
25 who Michael Thompson, the plaintiff in this case is,

1 investigation is.

2 A. The nature of that investigation, I had
3 citizens reporting to my office that Michael
4 Thompson, who was the county administrator at that
5 time, gave a contract to his brother. And we went to
6 a page and it showed that Thompson and Wiley had a
7 business, Wiley being the CEO of the business and
8 Thompson being an officer and auditor of the
9 business. We looked into that information and that's
10 a different thing than what his claim is now.

11 Q. I'm aware of that.

12 A. I want to clear that up. You're aware of
13 that. Okay. The citizens raised questions about
14 that. And our job was to -- my job was to look into
15 it as sheriff and make sure that the county taxpayers
16 wasn't being robbed when it comes to frivolous
17 contracts.

18 Q. Okay. The Thompson -- I mean, did you ever
19 institute charges against Michael Thompson for this
20 investigation that you had against him?

21 A. No, I did not.

22 Q. Did you ever find any wrongdoing associated
23 with that investigation?

24 A. We was building. No. We was building that
25 to give to the ethics commission concerning that.

1 Q. Did you ever file a report to the ethics
2 commission about the activities you were
3 investigating on Michael Thompson?

4 A. I filed a report with the attorney
5 general's office, met with the ethics commission. We
6 had a round table discussion on this and they
7 proceeded with that investigation.

8 Q. Did it ever result in charges being levied
9 against Mr. Michael Thompson?

10 A. No, it did not. But they came to Tunica
11 County, the state auditor's office, and they pulled a
12 lot of information. So things could be ongoing. I
13 do not know. My job is to report.

14 Q. Is your investigation in that matter
15 concluded?

16 A. Can you expound on that question?

17 Q. Have you ended your investigation into the
18 Michael Thompson allegations that came from citizens?

19 A. I gathered all that I could and I passed it
20 on to the appropriate authorities to move forward,
21 with the state auditor's office and the ethics
22 commission and the attorney general's office.

23 Q. So your portion of that investigation has
24 concluded?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. All right. In any way, was Captain James
2 Jones participating in that investigation?

3 A. He was.

4 Q. Okay. Captain James Jones, is he -- you
5 mentioned earlier that the licenses are run pursuant
6 to your fleet management safety -- fleet safety
7 management policy?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. By Lieutenant Guice and Ms. Evelyn Paige?

10 A. Right.

11 Q. It was not normal for Captain James Jones
12 to run licenses as part of that fleet safety
13 management policy, is it?

14 A. If a flag was raised, a person had a
15 warrant or a suspended license or what have you, then
16 it would come to our warrant division or special
17 operations. Captain Jones was in charge of special
18 operations at the time. We had a guy named Alvin
19 Harris, who was the maintenance director, he had a
20 charge come up in DeSoto County during the same time
21 for burglary and he was arrested and transported to
22 DeSoto County.

23 Q. Okay. As of February 12, 2014, did Michael
24 Thompson have a valid warrant out for his arrest?

25 A. I called personally Carroll County clerk

1 once I was alerted that Thompson had a suspended
2 driver's license based on my training and experience
3 that something else was in place. And I called
4 Carroll County. They confirmed with me that Michael
5 Thompson had a warrant. And I told them that this
6 guy is in my county every day and if they sent a
7 warrant over I'm sure it probably could be served and
8 we'll bring it to his attention.

9 Q. Did you ever receive a copy of a warrant
10 from Carroll County?

11 A. The clerk confirmed that once the judge
12 signed his signature to this warrant that he would
13 send it to us.

14 Q. All right.

15 A. And that was that.

16 Q. My question is whether you ever received a
17 copy of a valid warrant that had been issued for
18 Michael Thompson's arrest?

19 A. Not that night. Because Ellis Pittman, who
20 is now deceased, had gotten involved and somehow the
21 warrant was stopped that night, the warrant was
22 stopped once they were supposed to be faxing it over.
23 And I don't want to lose my train of thought. The
24 county attorney at the time, Ellis Pittman, had
25 gotten involved. And I'm sure you received the

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI)

COUNTY OF LEE)

RE: ORAL DEPOSITION OF SHERIFF CALVIN K. HAMP, SR.

I, Regina D. Russell, RPR, CCR 1110, a Notary Public within and for the aforesaid county and state, duly commissioned and acting, hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place set forth above; that the statements were written by me in machine shorthand; that the statements were thereafter transcribed by me, or under my direct supervision, by means of computer-aided transcription, constituting a true and correct transcription of the proceedings; and that the witness was by me duly sworn to testify to the truth and nothing but the truth in this cause.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties, or of counsel, nor am I financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Witness my hand and seal on this 10th day of December, 2016.

My Commission Expires: CCR 1110
January 27, 2020 Notary Public